DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE

State of Montana

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January 31, 2014

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Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) Municipal Corporation of Butte, MT has requested a permanent easement for lands to support a new water treatment facility. The new plant is part of a major upgrade for that portion of the municipal water system provided by the Basin Creek Reservoir.

While the Basin Creek water has been a superior source for more than 100 years, recent fluctuating levels of organic carbons have resulted in the need for additional chlorination which can pose a risk to human health when used at high levels. The addition of this water treatment facility will assure a safe source of water for the City of Butte, in addition to expanding the share of Basin Creek as a city water source, of up to 50%.

Contamination from mining means that wells are not viable sources for water within the city. This leaves Butte with few choices – the Big Hole River, Bear Creek, Basin Creek and Moulton Reservoir. All locations require significant infrastructure to bring water to the city. The Basin Creek location is just 8 miles south of Butte.

After review of multiple locations and attempts to negotiate with private landowners, the BSB has determined that state trust lands are needed to construct a portion of the new facility. The NW4NW4 of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 8 West has been selected. This location is adjacent to a 5 acre parcel that BSB was able to acquire from a private landowner. State trust lands will be used for pressurizing infrastructure and to stabilize the site location. A map of the land required for this construction is attached to this notice.

Easements, leases and licensed uses across state land must be approved by the State Land Board. Compensation is based on the fair market value, and returns are placed in the trust associated with the state trust land. This parcel is a Common School trust piece, and revenues will benefit K-12 school children of Montana.

This project requires additional multiple permits and authorizations, including but not limited to those from adjacent landowners, BSB, and the Department of Environmental Quality.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act to assess potential impacts of proposed activities on state lands to the human and physical environment. Public comments on this project are being sought in order to complete that assessment.

Public comment will be taken for 21 days (through February 21, 2014.) This request for public comment is also being posted on the DNRC website at http://dnrc.mt.gov/PublicInterest/Notices/Default.asp

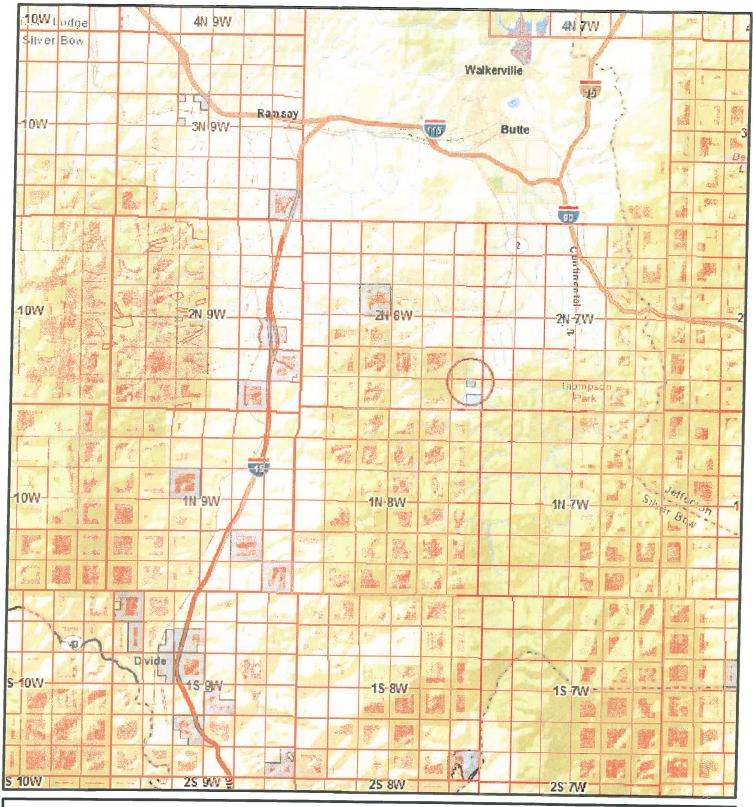
Comments may be submitted by email at dboruch@mt.gov. You may also mail written comments to SWLO-DNRC, Attn: Dana Boruch 1401 27th Avenue, Missoula MT 59804. If you have any questions, you may call 406-542-4286.

Dana M. Boruch Right-of-Way Specialist Southwestern Land Office

Enc.

(cont.)

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Vicinity Map



BSB Water Treatment Facility



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